

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 24785 030558Z

15

ACTION ORM-02

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TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: EPP MEDICAL PROBLEMS

REF : A. STATE 197288

B. STATE 207978

FOR : D/HA/ORM

FOLLOWING ARE ICEM COMMENTS ON MEDICAL PROBLEMS CITED REFTELS.

1. EPP 8295, LY VONG, LY, REF A. THE INCUBATION PERIOD FOR DIPHTERIA IS ONLY 2 TO 4 DAYS. IT IS THE SHORTEST FOR DISEASE CAUSED BY BACTERIA. THE REFUGEES REMAIN IN BANGKOK 3-5 DAYS WHERE A COMPLETE MEDICAL EXAMINATION IS PERFORMED. AT THIS TIME NO DIPHTERIA WAS DETECTED. THE FINAL PRE-EMBARKATION MEDICAL CHECK IS PERFORMED APPROXIMATELY 70 HOURS BEFORE A REFUGEE ARRIVES AT DESTINATION (THE FINAL MEDICAL CHECK TAKES PLACE WITHIN 24 HOURS BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM BANGKOK AND IT TAKES 45 HOURS TRAVEL TIME).

AS THE INCUBATION PERIOD FOR DIPHTERIA IS VERY SHORT, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE CHILD DID NOT HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS AT DEPARTURE TIME AND PRESENT SYMPTOMS OF DIPHTERIA ON ARRIVAL TO U.S. (70 HOURS LATER). REFUGEES WITH MINOR SKIN INFECTIONS ARE NOT DEFERRED. THEY RECEIVE TREATMENT AND ARE PERMITTED TO DEPART. NO NOTE OF INFECTION INDICATED ON THE MEDICAL FORMS FOR THIS FAMILY. IN THE FUTURE, SHOULD WE KEEP THE REFUGEES WITH SKIN INFECTION IN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 24785 030558Z

BANGKOK UNTIL THEY ARE CURED?

STOOL EXAMINATIONS ARE NOT PERFORMED AS PART OF USPHS MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR U.S.A. THEREFORE NO TAPE WORMS COULD BE REPORTED FOR THE FAMILY. OVER 50 PERCENT OF THE CHILDREN IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD SUFFER FROM PARASITIC INFECTIONS. PLEASE ADVISE IF STOOL EXAMINATION WILL BE REQUIRED IN THE FUTURE.

(NOTE:NOT RECOMMENDED AT THIS END BECAUSE ADDITIONAL DELAYS WOULD BE INCURRED IN COLLECTION AND TESTING. FIFTH FIELD HOSP. DID NOT DO STOOL OR MALARIA EXAMS.).

2. EPP 0431, OU SAM KON, REF A, AND EPP 8188, CHOMSY THAVONE, 3 PEOPLE, REF B. ICEM DOCTOR HAS CONSULTED SEPARATELY 3 RADIOLOGISTS TO READ THE X-RAYS IN THESE TWO CASES, ONE OF WHOM IS ALSO CONSULTANT TO AMERICAN EMBASSY MED. UNIT. ALL STATE NO INDICATION OF TB ON FILMS. ALSO UNLIKELY THAT FILMS WERE MIXED WITH ANOTHER PERSONS' AS EACH INDIVIDUALS' SIGNATURE APPEARS ON THEIR X-RAY. SIGNATURES WERE COMPARED WITH PAROLE LETTERS. ICEM FORWARDING COPIES OF X-RAYS ON ALL FOUR CASES TO ORM. ALL X-RAYS ARE NOW GETTING TWO INDEPENDENT READINGS.

3. EPP 0431, BY BAN, REF A. MALARIA IS ENDEMIC IN SEA, AND LOCAL VOLAGS ESTIMATE THAT, PROBABLY, 50 PER CENT OF THE REFUGEES DO HAVE A PAST HISTORY MALARIA. NO BLOOD EXAMINATION FOR MALARIA IS PERFORMED AS PART OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL EXAM. OBVIOUS CASES OF MALARIA ARE, OF COURSE, TREATED BEFORE DEPARTURE. PLEASE ADVISE IF THIS TEST WILL NOW BE REQUIRED.

4. EPP 0419, KEO LY SREANG, REF A. POST RUNS "VDRL" TEST ON ALL REFUGEES OVER 15 YEARS. INFO ON MEDICAL FORMS RETAINED HERE INDICATE NEGATIVE RESULTS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HUMAN ERROR COULD HAVE HAPPENED HERE. ALSO, A DIFFERENT TEST MIGHT INDICATE POSITIVE RESULTS.

5. QUESTION ARISES CONCERNING NOTIFICATION TO VOLAGS, AND SPONSORS, OF THESE MEDICAL PROBLEM CASES, ESPECIALLY THOSE SUCH AS TB WHICH MAY REQUIRE FOLLOW UP TREATMENT ON ARRIVAL IN U.S. CURRENT PROCEDURE IS TO NOTIFY ORM BY CABLE OF THOSE CASES WHICH WILL BE ON HOLD MORE THAN THREE WEEKS. IN GENERAL, THESE ARE ALL TB HOLDS. THE REFUGEE RECEIVES MEDICATION DURING THIS PERIOD TO BRING THE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 24785 030558Z

TB TO A NON-COMMUNICABLE STATE SUITABLE FOR TRAVEL. AFTER DEPARTURE, THE MEDICAL RECORDS ARE SENT TO ICEM/NY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL VOLAGS, AND, BY THE VOLAGS, TO THEIR REGIONAL AND LOCAL OFFICES FOR FOLLOW UP. ANY CASE THAT IS PARTICULARLY SEVERE IS HANDLED OUT OF CHANNELS AND SPECIAL NOTIFICATION IS MADE BY CABLE. THUS, A WEEK TO 10 DAYS CAN ELAPSE BETWEEN A REFUGEES' ARRIVAL IN THE U.S., AND ARRIVAL OF HIS MEDICAL RECORDS INDICATING THE SPECIFIC PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED, AND TREATED,

IN BANGKOK. IF ACCEPTABLE TO ORM, POST WOULD PREFER TO CONTINUE
THIS PROCEDURE.
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